

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~processor-based~~ method executed by a processor for analyzing contracts, comprising:
 - receiving a definition of plural structural components within a contract being analyzed;
 - determining at least one language pattern indicative of a contract attribute from text of a plurality of sample contracts, wherein the at least one language pattern corresponds to a particular one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;
 - determining whether the language pattern is present in [[a]] the particular structural component of the contract being analyzed; and
 - in response to the presence of the language pattern in the particular structural component of the contract being analyzed, assigning text associated with the language pattern to the contract attribute.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises identifying, from the plurality of sample contracts, annotations that describe a structural context associated with the language pattern, wherein the structural context corresponds to the particular structural component.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising manually adding the annotations to the plurality of sample contracts based on the plural structural components specified by the definition.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the annotations comprise extensible markup language tags.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the contract attribute is specified in a component object model associated with the contract.

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the at least one
2 language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises generating a rule having [[a]] an
3 identifier of the particular structural context component ~~associated with the contract attribute~~ and
4 a regular expression associated with the language pattern.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the regular expression is formed using a top-
2 down induction method.

1 8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein ~~the structural context~~
2 ~~component is specified in~~ receiving the definition comprises receiving a document object model
3 ~~associated with the contract~~.

1 9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein determining whether the language
2 pattern is present in the contract being analyzed further comprises classifying a portion of the
3 contract being analyzed containing the language pattern into a subject category associated with
4 the particular ~~context~~ structural component of the rule.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein classifying the portion of the
2 contract being analyzed comprises classifying into the subject category based on at least one
3 language pattern in the portion indicative of the subject category.

11. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising:

a processor;

a storage arrangement including a plurality of sample contracts and a definition stored in machine-readable form, wherein the definition specifies plural structural components of a contract being analyzed;

~~a learning arrangement coupled to the storage arrangement and configured~~ module executable on the processor to determine at least one language pattern indicative of a contract attribute from text of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the at least one language pattern corresponds to a particular one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;

~~an extractor configured~~ executable on the processor to determine whether the language pattern is present in [[a]] the particular structural component of the contract being analyzed, the extractor further ~~configured~~ executable to, in response to the presence of the language pattern in the particular structural component of the contract being analyzed, assign a contract attribute to a portion of the text of the contract being analyzed associated with the language pattern; and

a contracts facts database configured to store a data value conforming to the portion of the text assigned to the contract attribute.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the learning ~~arrangement is configured~~ module is executable to determine the at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute by identifying, from the plurality of sample contracts, annotations that describe a structural context associated with the language pattern and corresponding to the particular structural component in each of the sample contracts.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the learning ~~arrangement is configured~~ module is executable to accept a user input for manually adding annotations, according to the plural structural components specified by the definition, to the plurality of sample contracts.

14. (Cancelled)

1 15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the learning ~~arrangement~~ is
2 ~~configured~~ module is executable to determine the at least one language pattern indicative of the
3 contract attribute by generating a rule having [[a]] an identifier of the particular structural context
4 ~~component associated with the contract attribute~~ and a regular expression associated with the
5 language pattern.

1 16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the rule is generated using a top-down
2 induction method to form the regular expression.

1 17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the contracts facts database
2 comprises one of a relational database and an extensible markup language database.

1 18. (Cancelled)

1 19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium ~~configured with~~ containing
2 instructions for causing a processor of a data processing ~~arrangement~~ system to perform steps
3 comprising:

4 receiving a definition of plural structural components within a contract being analyzed;
5 determining at least one language pattern indicative of a contract attribute from text from
6 a plurality of sample contracts, wherein the at least one language pattern corresponds to a
7 particular one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;

8 determining whether the language pattern is present in [[a]] the particular structural
9 component of the contract being analyzed; and

10 in response to the presence of the language pattern in the particular structural component
11 of the contract being analyzed, assigning a portion of text associated with the language pattern to
12 the contract attribute.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein determining at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises identifying, from the plurality of sample contracts, annotations that describe a structural context associated with the language pattern, wherein the structural context corresponds to the particular structural component.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 20, wherein the steps further comprise manually adding the annotations to the plurality of sample contracts, based on the plural structural components specified by the definition.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein determining the at least one language pattern indicative of the contract attribute comprises generating a rule having [[a]] an identifier of the particular structural ~~context~~ component ~~associated with the contract attribute~~ and a regular expression associated with the language pattern.

24. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the particular structural component is present in at least some of the sample contracts.

28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the definition of the plural structural components comprises receiving a model of the plural structural components.

29. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the definition of the plural structural components comprises receiving the definition of plural sections or clauses within the contract being analyzed.

1 30. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
2 determining a second language pattern indicative of a second contract attribute from text
3 of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the second language pattern corresponds to a second
4 one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;
5 determining whether the second language pattern is present in the second structural
6 component of the contract being analyzed; and
7 extracting text to assign to the second contract attribute from the second structural
8 component of the contract being analyzed in response to determining the second language
9 pattern is present.

1 31. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the particular structural component is present in
2 at least some of the sample contracts.

1 32. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the plural structural components specified by the
2 definition comprise sections or clauses of the contract being analyzed.

1 33. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the learning module is executable to determine a
2 second language pattern indicative of a second contract attribute from text of the plurality of
3 sample contracts, wherein the second language pattern corresponds to a second one of the plural
4 structural components specified by the definition, and
5 wherein the extractor is executable to:
6 determine whether the second language pattern is present in the second structural
7 component of the contract being analyzed; and
8 extract text to assign to the second contract attribute from the second structural
9 component of the contract being analyzed in response to determining the second language
10 pattern is present.

1 34. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the particular
2 structural component is present in at least some of the sample contracts.

1 35. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the plural structural
2 components specified by the definition comprise sections or clauses of the contract being
3 analyzed.

1 36. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 19, wherein the instructions are
2 for causing the process to further perform the steps of:
3 determining a second language pattern indicative of a second contract attribute from text
4 of the plurality of sample contracts, wherein the second language pattern corresponds to a second
5 one of the plural structural components specified by the definition;
6 determining whether the second language pattern is present in the second structural
7 component of the contract being analyzed; and
8 extracting text to assign to the second contract attribute from the second structural
9 component of the contract being analyzed in response to determining the second language
10 pattern is present.